GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4819
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
REDUCTION IN LANDLINE TARIFF
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a deep fall in the Revenue Income on account of the increasing cases of surrender of landline connections;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to reduce the monthly rent of landline connections at par with private providers to avoid surrendering of landline connections by the subscribers; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to sustain the subscriber base for landline phones?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) There is a fall in the revenue income on account of surrender of landline connections and other reasons, namely, stiff reduction of telephone tariffs and introduction of customer friendly plans.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to further reduce the monthly rentals as it is already quite competitive.

(c) The following steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to sustain the subscriber base of landline phones:

A number of tariff schemes have been introduced to retain the customers including One India Plan.

Broadband connections are being provided on fixed lines at competitive tariff to retain the landline customers.

All exchanges have been made digital to improve service quality.

Rehabilitation of outdoor network is being done on continuous basis to reduce fault rate and Main Time Repair (MTR) of landline.

New Remote Station Units (RSUs)/Digital Loop Carrier System (DLCs) are being provided to reduce faults of landline.

New Value Added Services like broadband, Intelligence Network (IN) based services, Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) etc. are being provided to landline customers at affordable rates.

pre-paid Public Call Offices (PCOs) are being installed.

Opening of Sanchar Haat, Quick Customer Service Centre (QCSC), appointment of dealers and agents and by various methods to make bill payment etc. for landline customers.

Reviewing of tariff for various products and services to landline customers so as to make them customer friendly, competitive and to suit all segments of the society.